Name of the Scheme:—Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for ST girls.

1	Lok Niketan, At/PO Ratanpur, Taluka-Palanpur, District Banaskantha, Gujarat	1100000

Problems faced by tribal communities

3939. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the various problems facing the tribal community in the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government to settle their problems; and

(c) whether Government have prepared any long-term plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Most of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities inhabit areas of the country which are remote, hilly, undulating plateau lands, coincide with forest areas, and have low density of population. Availability of critical infrastructure facilities in these areas and the Human Development Indicators (HDIs) of the Scheduled Tribe population in the country continue to be much lower than the rest of the area/population. The protection/ rights available to the STs under various legislations/regulations/policies, etc. are often not implemented effectively.

(b) and(c) In addition to various social sector and infrastrucutre development programmes being implemented by various sectoral Ministries, which also benefit tribal areas and people, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored schemes and programmes for the socio-economic development of the tribal people in the country. These schemes are related to income and employment generation, infrastructure development, educational development and improvement in literacy of all the tribal people. Some schemes pertain to ensuring fair prices for minor forest produce besides the promotion of the voluntary effort in the area of tribal welfare. The Ministry has also taken up integrated development of forest villages in the country with a view to provide basic minimum facilities and services, like, safe drinking water, health care, primary education, approach road and other infrastructure facilities. The schemes and programmes of the Ministry are reviewed periodically and implemented as formulated in the Five Year Plans.

In addition to pursuing with the implementing agencies to effectively protect to interest of STs as per the existing legislative and regulatory framework, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also introduced a Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 in the Lok Sabha on 13.12.2005, which seeks to recognise and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling scheduled tribes relating to their (a) tenurial security; (b) likelyhood, in terms of subsistence agriculture and ownership of minor forest produce; and (c) traditional and customary rights. The Bill has been referred to a Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament for examination.

Financial Assistance to tribals

3940. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tribals who have received financial assistance to set up economic enterprises from the Tribal Finance Corporation of Government of India;

(b) the figures for the last five years, year-wise industry-wise, area-wise and State-wise; and

(c) how many of the tribals have become successful entrepreneurs in the last five years, State-wise and region-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Since its inception on 10.04.2001, National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) has released Rs. 172.49 crore to Channelising Agencies of various States/UTs as on 31.03.2006 for setting up of economic enterprises by 31,883 eligible ST persons. In addition, NSTFDC has released Rs. 34.50 crore to Girijan Cooperative Corporation Ltd. (GCC), Andhra Pradesh and Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED), New Delhi for undertaking marketing/procurement activities of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) involving 14,74,730 STs.

(b) Year-wise and category-wise information in respect of various States is given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(c) State Channelising Agencies have been advised to ensure proper monitoring and follow up of beneficiaries so that they become successful entrepreneurs. Names of successful entrepreneurs are not maintained in the Ministry.